

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FLASH

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EXDIS/TOSEC 64

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FINNISH INVITATION TO STAGE III IN JULY

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

REF: GENEVA 4072

1. SHERER REPORTS FOLLOWING IN REFTEL "WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT FINNS WILL USE JUNE 27 MEETING OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO ISSUE FORMAL INVITATION TO STAGE III IN HELSINKI DURING PERIOD JULY 20-30. WHILE MOST DELEGATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN SILENT, POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT SOVIETS WILL SAY THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT. IN SUCH A SITUATION SEVERAL WESTERN DELEGATION ARE PREPARED TO REFUSE, AND FINNS WILL DRAW FORMAL CONCLUSION THAT A THIRD STAGE IN JULY IS NOT POSSIBLE. USDEL WILL REMAIN SILENT ON THIS SUBJECT UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY OPENING OF BUSINESS JUNE 27."

2. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT FINNS MAY BE PLANNING TO TAKE THIS STEP ON BASIS OF SOVIET URGING, WE BELIEVE

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THAT ALLIES SHOULD TAKE A POSITION WHICH IS LOW KEY

BUT PLACES THE ONUS FOR NOT ACQUIESCING IN FINNISH
PROPOSAL ON LACK OF PROGRESS IN CSCE. THUS WE
RECOMMEND YOU SEND THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE TO GENEVA FOR

SHERER FOR USE IN DEVELOPING ALLIED RESPONSE TO FINNISH
PROPOSAL: BEGIN TEXT

FOR SHERER FROM SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

ON ASSUMPTION ALLIES ARE AWARE OF FINNISH PROPOSAL
IN GENEVA 4072, IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIED COLLEAGUES
PRIOR TO COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 27, OR
THEREAFTER AS APPROPRIATE, YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM THAT
YOU BELIEVE ALLIES SHOULD STATE IN RESPONSE TO FINNISH
PROPOSAL THAT, PROVIDING STAGE II WORK COULD BE
COMPLETED BY JULY 20, ALLIES WOULD IN PRINCIPLE NOT
OBJECT TO BEGINNING STAGE III THEN; HOWEVER, THIS DOES
NOT APPEAR TO BE A REALISTIC OPTION IN LIGHT OF PROGRESS
TO DATE IN STAGE II. YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL ALLIED
REPS THAT YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS
POSITION IN COORDINATING COMMITTEE. SHOULD THE ISSUE
ARISE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE ALLIES, YOU SHOULD MAKE
CLEAR WE ARE NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPTING TO SET A TARGET
DATE FOR CONCLUSION OF STAGE II OR OPENING OF STAGE III.
END TEXT

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